

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this patent application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

The claims are 1-30. Claims 1-23 and 25-30 are as presented in the Preliminary Amendment filed September 28, 2006. Claim 24 has been amended to more clearly define the invention. Support for the amendments to claim 24 may be found, *inter alia*, in claim 1 as filed and in the specification as filed at paragraph 44 on page 12. No new matter has been added.

The specification has been amended to correct a typographical error on page 3. In particular, the specification has been amended to correct the citation of EP 1 005 928 A2. Applicant's Third Preliminary Amendment submitted on September 6, 2007 included a typographical error with respect to this citation, which error is corrected herein. No new matter has been added. Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Applicant further requests that the Examiner confirm the consideration of reference EP 1 005 928 A2 and the International Search Report by initialing and returning a copy of the Form PTO-1449, which was submitted by the Applicant with a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement on September 6, 2007, prior to the issuance of the Office Action responded to herein. A copy of

the Form PTO-1449 listing the EP 1 005 928 A2 reference and International Search Report, which was submitted on September 6, 2007 is enclosed herewith for the Examiner's convenience.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a) for failing to show a gantry as described in the specification. In response, Applicant respectfully submits that a gantry is provided by the cross bars shown in FIG. 3 as reference numeral 21 and described in the specification, for example at paragraphs 50 and 57. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the gantry as described in the specification is shown in the drawings and it is respectfully requested that the objections to the drawings on this basis be withdrawn.

Claims 1-10, 13, 14, 16-18, 21 and 24-30 have been rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 3,761,003 to *Sieurin*. Claims 11, 12, 19, 20, 22 and 23 have been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Sieurin* in view of US Patent No. 3,144,949 to *Haugwitz*. Claim 15 has been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Sieurin* in view of US Patent No. 4,360,054 to *Perrella*. Essentially, the Examiner's position is that *Sieurin* discloses a drawing machine and method substantially as claimed with the exception of a force splitter and at least one cross tie which is

said to be shown by *Haugwitz* and a hydraulic cylinder which is said to be shown by *Perrella*.

The rejections are respectfully traversed.

As set forth in independent claim 1, Applicant's invention provides a drawing machine with a caterpillar conveyor for drawing a linear workpiece through a drawing die. The caterpillar conveyor includes a first chain carrier and a second chain carrier.

A first tool chain and second tool chain form a drawing plane in which the workpiece to be drawn is caused to move. At least one of the chain carriers is displaceable in a frame which absorbs press-on forces between the tool chains. A first frame half is disposed on a first side of the drawing plane and a second frame half is disposed on a second side of the drawing plane. The first frame half and the second frame half are configured to be symmetrical in a region opposing the press-on forces.

As set forth in independent claim 24 as amended herein, applicant's invention further provides a method of drawing a linear workpiece through a drawing die, wherein the workpiece to be drawn is conveyed by means of a first and a second tool chain of a caterpillar conveyor. The first tool chain is held by a

first chain carrier and the second tool chain is held by a second chain carrier. At least one of the chain carriers is displaceable for applying press-on forces. The first and second tool chains form a drawing plane in which the workpiece is moved, wherein the press-on forces are applied in the drawing plane.

At least one of the chain carriers is displaceable in a frame absorbing the press-on forces between the tool chains. The frame includes a first frame half disposed on a first side of the drawing plane and a second frame half disposed on a second side of the drawing plane. The first frame half and the second frame half are configured to be symmetrical in the region opposing the press-on forces.

In particular, Applicant's claim 1 recites a drawing machine having the following features:

the first tool chain and the second tool chain forming a drawing plane in which the workpiece to be drawn is caused to move ...

wherein a first frame half (16, 17) is disposed on a first side of the drawing plane and a second frame half (16, 17) on a second side of the drawing plane, and the first frame half (16, 17) and the second frame half (16, 17) are configured to be symmetrical in the region opposing the press-on forces.

Similarly, Applicant's claim 24 as amended recites a method of drawing a linear workpiece through a drawing die, wherein

said first and said second tool chain forming a drawing plane in which the workpiece is moved ...

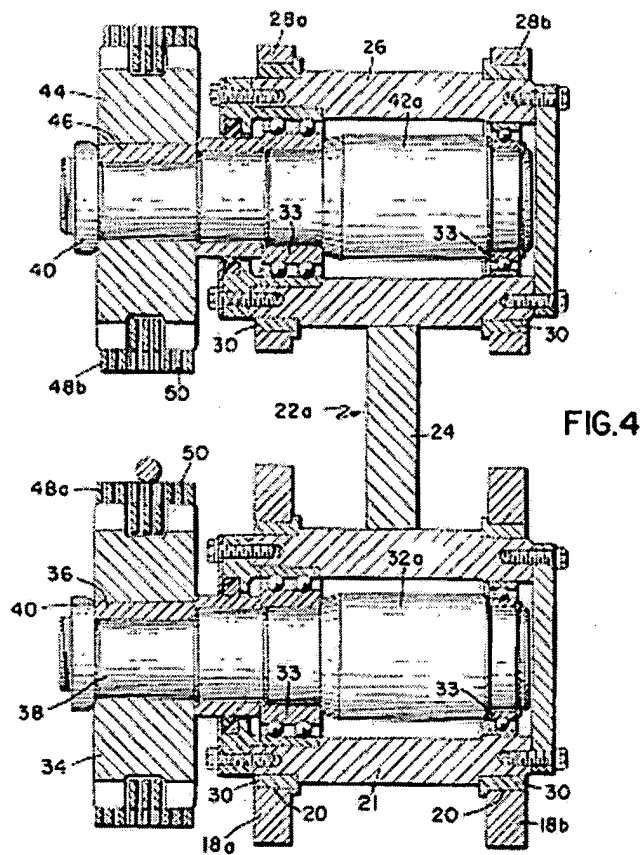
said frame comprising a first frame half disposed on a first side of the drawing plane and a second frame half disposed on a second side of the drawing plane, wherein the first frame half and the second frame half are configured to be symmetrical in the region opposing the press-on forces.

The Examiner has taken the position that *Sieurin* teaches an apparatus wherein:

- the first tool chain (48b) and the second tool chain (48a) of *Sieurin* form a drawing plane in which the workpiece to be drawn is caused to move;
- a first frame half (18a) is disposed on a first side of the drawing plane and a second frame half (18b) on a second side of the drawing plane; and
- the first frame half (18a) and the second frame half are configured to be symmetrical in the region opposing the press-on forces (Col. 3 lines 8-11).

It is respectfully submitted; however, that *Sieurin* fails to teach or suggest a drawing machine or method for drawing a linear workpiece through a drawing die wherein a first tool chain and a second tool chain form a drawing plane in which the workpiece to be drawn is caused to move; wherein a first frame half is disposed on a first side of the drawing plane and a second frame half is disposed on a second side of the drawing plane; and wherein the first frame half and the second frame half are configured to be symmetrical in the region opposing the press-on forces, as recited in independent claims 1 and 24.

In particular, as shown in FIG. 4 of *Sieurin*, reproduced below, the drawing plane into which the workpiece is caused to move in the *Sieurin* apparatus extends into the page and perpendicular with sprocket shafts 32a and 42a. Accordingly, first frame half (18a) and second frame half (18b) of the *Sieurin* apparatus are not disposed on respective first and second sides of a drawing plane formed by first tool chain (48b) and second tool chain (48a) as recited in Applicant's claims 1 and 24. Rather, first frame half (18a) and second frame half (18b) are disposed on the same side of the drawing plane.



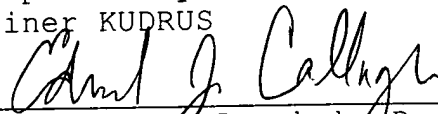
Moreover, the apparatus according to *Sieurin* fails to show a first frame half and second frame half that are configured to be symmetrical in the region opposing the press-on forces as recited in claims 1 and 24, as any frame halves of *Sieurin* are not disposed on first and second sides of the drawing plane, but rather are disposed on the same side of the drawing plane. The advantages of the symmetrical configuration recited in Applicant's claims are discussed for example at paragraphs 10-12 of Applicant's specification and are nowhere achieved by the device described in *Sieurin*.

The secondary references to *Haugwitz* and *Perrella* fail to remedy the deficiencies and of *Sieurin*.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, it is believed that the independent claims 1 and 24 are allowable over the cited references, either alone or in combination. Moreover, claims 2-23, which depend directly or indirectly on claim 1, and claims 25-30, which depend directly or indirectly on claim 24, are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons set forth for independent claims 1 and 24.

In summary, claims 1-23 and 25-30 are as previously presented and claim 24 has been amended. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the claims be allowed and that this application be passed to issue. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosure: Copy of Form PTO-1449 submitted on September 6, 2007.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MAIL STOP AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA, 22313-1450 on December 17, 2007.


Amy Klein